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Personalities

Mending Fences?

That was New York Times reporter Leslie H. Gelb having an intense lunch yesterday at Maison Blanche with Lt. Gen. John T. Chain Jr. The general, you will remember, as director of the State Department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, barred his staff from talking to Gelb, who also was once head of the bureau. He had accused Gelb of reporting "classified information, the release of which is harmful and damaging to the United States." And in a "take that!" gesture, Chain had ordered Gelb's photograph removed from its frame on the wall with other former directors. A notation in the empty frame read: "Removed for Cause." It isn't certain if yesterday's lunch was a kiss-and-make-up meeting. Gelb's only comment was: "No comment. It was a private lunch."